

Summaries

On the medieval Urban Settlement

By *Ebbe Hædersdal*

The paper treats the problems concerning two medieval settlement patterns. One is characterized by a parcelling out of the property in long, narrow sites and a dense settlement (Fig. 1 left). The other is more open with a detached domestic main building inside the large wide site, a garden behind the main building and a ribbon of commercial buildings or lodgings (Fig. 1 right). Reminiscences of the latter pattern are still to be found in Copenhagen, Roskilde, Kalundborg, Køge, Aalborg, Viborg, Haderslev and Ribe and outside the present-day Denmark in Sweden, Norway, England, Germany and the eastern Baltic States.

The pattern of long, narrow sites and a dense settlement is found in Elsinore, Ribe, Tønder, Flensborg, Aabenraa and Haderslev and in Norway, England, the Netherlands and the Hanseatic towns.

Previously, this pattern was thought to be influenced by the distribution of sites in the Hanseatic towns. Recent investigations – e.g. the large-scale excavations in Bergen, Tønsberg, Oslo, Skien and Trondheim – have proved that this urban structure was laid down before the Hanseatic urban culture could seriously have asserted itself.

In Denmark stone houses are known as early as in the 13th century and recent investigations have shown that they were not as uncommon as was previously assumed. Most of the preserved or partly preserved stone houses date from the end of the 15th century or the beginning of the 16th century. Unfortunately, the number of completely preserved stone houses is quite small. While in some Low German towns the sites were developed from the centre and towards the street, it is still impossible safely to outline a similar development in Denmark. Though such a development has been demonstrated in Køge. However, more and larger excavations are necessary before any general conclusions can be made.

Previously, the terrace houses were thought to be absolutely predominant in Danish towns, and when found the gabled house was thought to be of Hanseatic origin. The preserved parts of the medieval stone houses, however, cannot confirm this hypothesis. On the contrary, the street scene seems to have been extremely varied, composed by both terrace houses as gabled houses and L-shaped buildings. In southern Jutland and in southern Funen a certain Low German-Frisian influence on the gabled house can be detected; however, in the rest of Denmark the gabled house has no common features with the Hanseatic “diele” gabled house. The Danish gabled house is a hall building and so more naturally attach itself to the extensive Northwest-european material about this type of house.

From Tuesen's Bothies to the Castle of Malmöhus

By *Sölve Johansson*

Mogens Tuesen's stone bothies in Næstved (about 1480) form a row of seven terraced houses originally attached individual dwellings. They are undoubtedly the oldest preserved *mansions* in Denmark and Scania, as well as in the whole of Scandinavia. According to archaeological evidence and written sources there were attached shops and workshops as early as the beginning of the Middle Ages. From the 16th and 17th centuries there remain several known mansions, in the shape of *terraced and semi-detached houses*, but also as *houses with external galleries*, a type of building predominantly belonging to the 17th century. After the Great Fire in Copenhagen in 1728 the so-called Ildebrandshus was built there. It is a multi-storeyed tenement house of modern type, as a rule with one apartment on each floor – a *narrow house* – which was built on a large scale for purposes of speculation.

The paper outlines the most important examples of *mansions*, from

the time of their origin in Scandinavia c. 1480 to 1550. It concentrates on brick-built as well as half-timbered houses in the Danish towns of *Næstved, Køge and Ribe and in Malmö* in Scania. Malmö plays an important part in the paper, the town being in a very expansive period during the first decades of the 16th century, with a vast number of erected mansions, especially terraced houses.

The paper is based on the author's attempt to establish a typology of the mansions including their *locations, main structures, exterior and ground-plans*. The concepts used refer to the architecture, the plan arrangement of the building and its function contrary to the prevailing ideas of Danish architectural research concentrating on tenanted houses or shops, and emphasizing the contracts between the proprietors and the tenants. Besides tenement houses – *mansions* – the investigation also comprises mansions let as *official residences, to the poor and destitute and dwellings used by the proprietor*, as well as mansions with different contracts within the same house.

The plan arrangements used were *the one-room dwelling*, for instance in the Tusesen bothies around 1480 and Store Kirkestræde in Køge in 1527, but there were also more complex plans as early as the beginning of the 16th century. There is a plan with *a hall in the centre of the building* in the Rosenvingeska and Kutzenska mansions but also in the Castle of Malmöhus (from the 1530s) and probably even in the town hall of Ribe (1528). A plan with *the kitchen situated at the entrance of the building* may have been used in Jep Nielsen's waterfront bothies in Malmö around 1530. Mogens Steen's bothy from 1523 in Køge is constructed with the kitchen in front of the hall. This is a plan typical of the younger houses with external galleries.

Finally, the author points to the fact that mansions of both very wealthy and very simple nature exist. Among other buildings the monumental Castle of Malmöhus with three residences can be compared to the great number of late medieval mansions built for artisans, soldiers and as an element of the poor relief.

Stone Houses in Kalundborg

By Jørgen Ganshorn

Kalundborg is among the Danish towns with most medieval stone houses. The town was probably founded according to an overall plan; an east-west main street with parallel streets to the north and to the south.

From the very start the town was protected by or built close to a polygonal castle protruding west of the nature hill crest. On the summit of the hill the unique five-tower church was built probably at the time of the foundation of the town around or shortly before the year 1200.

The stone houses existing to-day represent a secular building custom. However, they were probably built by the clergy or ecclesiastical institutions. The oldest house – known to have been owned as a stone house as early as 1454 by the Church of Our Lady in Copenhagen – is a one-room dwelling with a fire-place in a separate building at the back. From the beginning the house had two complete storeys and an almost square ground-plan. Besides the two storeys proper the house had a cellar almost above ground-level with stairs from the court as well as from the street.

Almost all the preserved houses were built according to an identical plan: two storeys and a cellar partly above ground-level. Living quarters on the first floor and store rooms on the second floor.

Among the houses are two large blocks, one Adelgade 6-8 built in the 16th century by the see of Roskilde, perhaps the bishop Peder Jensen Lodehat, who bought the sites 1386-1408, was the original builder.

The block consists of a double bothy with corresponding cellars, a hall building of considerable size and between them a lodginghouse only accessible from the court.

Præstegade also boasts an ecclesiastical house of special construction, perhaps the best preserved medieval house in Denmark. It was built between 1485 and 1500 probably as a presbytery and only forms the core in a block of half-timbered buildings. The house has fire-places on all floors, also originally on the top floor which seems to have been covered under the rafters. This floor has a grain hoist from the street. An elaborate system of chimneys from a planned but never finished hypocaust ends inside the battlement.

The medieval houses of Kalundborg show considerable similarities but also striking dissimilarities. They are relatively small, at any rate the individual dwellings. This is a consequence of the modest space inside the surrounding town wall which in the last part of the Middle Ages had an important castle or palace both to the west and to the east. The town inside the wall has probably only been used for domestic houses and closely connected activities, while stables and storage yards mostly were situated outside the wall at the flat beach towards the fjord or along the eastward road to the town. This was also the site of the 1239 founded Franciscan monastery.

Medieval Stone Houses in Odense

By Anemette S. Christensen

A commented catalogue of hitherto known medieval houses, mainly from the 15th and the 16th centuries and all of brick, based on archaeological and written sources. It is stressed, that it is impossible to estimate the number of houses during the period in question to give a survey of their position in an urban building pattern. More than half of the known houses were owned by ecclesiastical or secular institutions, and it is suggested, that perhaps building with brick mainly was implemented by the ecclesiastical institutions. The monasteries of St Knud and St Hans are known to be owners of brickworks.

Seven Late Medieval Houses in Elsinore

By H. H. Engqvist

In Elsinore in the eastern blocks between Stengade (the main street) and Strandgade there is a number of large merchant-houses with brick-built two-storey buildings, which most of them date back to the period between 1500 and 1550.

Two of the front-buildings facing Stengade have the gable end on the street, while the rest have their side to the street. The latter are furnished with a one-storey side-wing contemporary with the building facing the street. We call them L-plan frontbuildings.

The buildings with the gables on the street (No. 74 and No. 76) were probably built around the year 1500. In the lower storey they contained two rooms of which the front room has probably had an outgoing function (shop, workshop or reception-room (parlour)), while the back room, which was the larger one has been the living-room of the house where the open fireplace – besides being a heating source – has probably served as fireplace for the daily cooking.

Narrow side-wings have been attached to both “gabled houses”. One of these, which still exists, ends with a small square building, which has most likely served either as a separate kitchen or as a scullery.

In the smaller one of the L-plan front-buildings, No. 70, erected about 1525, the wing towards the street – except for an entrance

passage which goes through the house – only contained a shop, and in the upper floor a large room with an open fireplace.

The dwelling which was situated in the one-storey side-wing consisted of a small entrance room, which was accessible from the courtyard and a larger living-room with frescoes on the walls.

In two of the major L-plan front-buildings, No. 66 and No. 72 (erected in 1517 and 1542) the ground-floor in the wing facing the street consisted of an entrance passage which went through the middle of the house with a large living-room on the side with the side-wing, and a smaller room (shop or reception-room) with a chamber situated behind it on the opposite side. In the upper floors there have apparently been one or two small chambers, while the rest has been used as a store-room or a hall for festivity.

On the back of the wing to the street, No. 66, you may still see a small outbuilding containing the privies of the house, which were accessible from the chambers at the back.

In the side-wings the kitchen was situated directly to the back of the wing to the street, in order that the stove in the living-room could also be served from the large fireplace in the kitchen. This was, at any rate, the case for No. 72 and No. 68 (the latter built shortly after 1560). As for the rest of the side-wings these seem to have contained various commercial rooms.

In the area behind the dwelling houses different outbuildings, stables and ware-houses were to be found, and in the course of time these buildings came closer and closer to the coast with its wharfs. A transverse house with a gate for through-going traffic often closed the court-yard towards the coast. Among the buildings erected later on there are several large brick-built two-storey ware-houses. Of these the oldest one in the large site created in 1542 by a combination of No. 72 and No. 74, was built between 1550 and 1560.

Medieval Stone Houses in St. Mogens Gade in Viborg

By Hans Krongaard Kristensen

During the Middle Ages Viborg had a comparatively large number of stone houses. Still several of these houses survive in small or large parts. The paper treats five houses from the late medieval main street of St. Mogens Gade. No. 5 was destroyed by fire in 1667, the cellar of this house was excavated in 1980. Nos. 7 and 9 have been

preserved yet with later modern alterations. Of No. 31 only the cellar is medieval. No. 38 was re-built in 1982. On that occasion an archaeological investigation of the house took place.

All houses have access to the cellars from the street, and Nos. 7, 9 and 31 have had more than one door. The cellars in question must be interpreted as small commercial bothies.

The House of the Guildensterns in Viborg

By Jens Velle

During the winter of 1906-07 a fine late Gothic corner building was pulled down in Viborg. The National Museum in vain tried to save the house, which was called "Budolfi" due to the assumption that remains of the convent dedicated to the English saint Bodolf were incorporated in the masonry. In connection with the long attempted rescue, the building was investigated and surveyed by the architect C. M. Smidt. The corner building turned out to be a secular brick building with a fine decoration of double arches over the windows and doors.

The survey and the photos which were a result of the investigation are here published together for the first time. A study of the archives has proved that the building was probably built by the nobleman Henrik Gyldenstjerne (dead 1560). Anyhow his children owned it by the end of the century. Consequently, the name "House of the Guildensterns", ought to replace the previously used name of "Budolfi".

The dating of the house is set to the decades immediately before or after the Reformation, as the characteristic double arches are also found in a small collection of buildings in Northern Jutland which have been dated to the years approx. 1520 to 1540.

Medieval vernacular Brick Buildings in Lund – a short Survey

By Anders André

Only three medieval vernacular brick buildings are preserved in present-day Lund. But archaeological and historical investigations

have shown, that at least 32 (and probably 37) brickbuildings existed in the town at the end of the Middle Ages.

The houses seemed to have functioned as main buildings in town properties, and they were often situated on street corners or along streets, more or less as symbols of the estates. At the time of the Reformation most brick buildings belonged to ecclesiastical institutions, and many of them served as residences of the canons of the chapter. But indications in the incomplete source material suggest that the houses should primarily be associated with the town patriciate, i.e. the landed urban aristocracy of the 13th and 14th centuries. The buildings might even have had some connection with the parish system in the town. The brick-built houses were scattered over practically all the 22 parishes in Lund, and generally speaking they may have marked those properties which had part in the rights to the parish churches.

Medieval Stone Houses in Malmö

By Sven Rosborn

The paper demonstrates that in the town of Malmö, Scania, a number of brick-built houses from the 14th and 16th centuries are to be found.

The author argues that these domestic buildings must be viewed in relation to the institutional buildings of the same period – the church of St. Peter's, Møntergården, Strandmaren.

"I være have" – "To possess"

By Bodil Møller Knudsen and Helle Reinholdt

Medieval law both the ecclesiastical and the secular operates with a concept of possession, the basis of which was the distribution and the protection of material wealth in consideration of the common good.

The legal status between persons and property being a question of ownership in Latin is expressed by the verb *possidere*. The sources written in Danish use the term: house and land "haves i være" (in German the concept is expressed by "Gewere", in English by a

special kind of tenancy) which means that the person has the property in trust and has a right to defend it in court.

Possession could entail a time limit of the right or lack of same. Although the material treated by this paper deals with rights that are both limited and unlimited in time, the linguistic context in which they are used and the actual contents of the rights show that a difference between the two kinds of rights need not exist. For exam-

ple leases can be eternal and hereditary and payment of rent need not exclude ownership. All these rights are covered by the expression "i være have". This concept is the very key to the understanding of a broad concept of rights, which in the Middle Ages was filled with meaning according to wish and need, as can be seen from the expression: "Hvem hus og jord fanger i være, til arv, køb eller leje". (Whoever possesses house and land by inheritance, purchase or lease ..")